

Sixty-eighth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2145

Introduced by

Senators Davison, Sorvaag

Representatives Bosch, Strinden, Swiontek, Wagner

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 15-20.4-04 of the North Dakota Century Code,
2 relating to exceptions for postsecondary career school accreditation; to provide for a legislative
3 management study; to provide an expiration date; and to declare an emergency.

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

5 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 15-20.4-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is
6 amended and reenacted as follows:

7 **15-20.4-04. Minimum standards - Exceptions.**

- 8 1. ~~All~~ A postsecondary career ~~school~~ school must be accredited by national or regional
9 accrediting agencies recognized by the United States department of education. The
10 board ~~may~~ additionally may require ~~such~~ further evidence and ~~make such~~ further
11 ~~investigation~~ investigate as in ~~its~~ the board's judgment may be necessary. ~~Any~~ A
12 postsecondary career school operating in this state seeking ~~its~~ the school's first
13 authorization to operate may be issued a provisional authorization to operate on an
14 annual basis until the school becomes eligible for accreditation by a recognized
15 accrediting agency. ~~Schools~~ A school issued a provisional authorization to operate
16 must demonstrate a substantial good-faith showing of progress toward
17 ~~such~~ accreditation status. Only upon accreditation ~~shall~~ may a school become eligible
18 for a regular authorization to operate. A school shall give written notification to the
19 board within thirty days of any change to the school's accreditation status.
- 20 2. This section does not apply to a postsecondary career ~~school~~ school operating in this
21 state that ~~do~~;
- 22 a. Does not grant ~~degrees~~ a degree and that ~~offer~~ offers mainly hands-on training in
23 low census occupations, as determined by the board. "Degree" as used in this
24 ~~subsection~~ subdivision means a document that provides evidence or

1 demonstrates completion of a course of instruction that results in the attainment
2 of a rank or level of associate or higher.

3 b. Offers a full-stack software engineering course that was in operation before 2020.

4 **SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY - POSTSECONDARY CAREER**

5 **SCHOOL AUTHORIZATION.** During the 2023-24 interim, the legislative management shall
6 consider studying the statute for the authorization to operate postsecondary career schools. The
7 legislative management shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any
8 legislation necessary to implement the recommendations, to the sixty-ninth legislative assembly.

9 **SECTION 3. EXPIRATION DATE.** This Act is effective through January 1, 2026, and after
10 that date is ineffective.

11 **SECTION 4. EMERGENCY.** Section 1 of this Act is declared to be an emergency measure.